

ARIZONA **BINGO REVIEW**



Governor Janet Napolitano
Director J. Elliott Hibbs
Internet Address

www.revenue.state.az.us

Email Address
bingo@revenue.state.az.us

Phoenix Office
1600 West Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone 602-542-3227
(Fax 602-364-0086)

Bingo Section Administrator
David Manzer
ManzerD@revenue.state.az.us

Investigator Ralph A Young
YoungR@revenue.state.az.us

Revenue Auditor Loraine Mata
MataL@revenue.state.az.us

Administrative Secretary
Lupe Bejarano
BejaranoL@revenue.state.az.us

Tucson Office
400 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone 520-628-6438
(Fax 520-628-6474)

Investigation Supervisor
Anthia "Sam" Martin
MartinS@revenue.state.az.us

Investigator Richard Pittman
PittmanR@revenue.state.az.us

Revenue Auditor Deborah Cluff
CluffDe@revenue.state.az.us

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BINGO RULES ON SCHEDULE

The proposed rules are now on the bingo web-site. This new posting actually shows the current rule as written with strike-throughs showing proposed changes. There was no opposition to the proposed rules voiced at the hearing held on March 17, 2003, to cover the final draft of the bingo rules. The Notice of Final Rulemaking will be submitted

to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. (GRRC) in early April. Another hearing is needed; however, a date has not yet been set. The date will be posted on the web-site as soon as it is set. If there is no opposition at this hearing, the rules will become effective sometime in July or August 2003.

CHANGES TO THE SPECIAL BONUS GAME APPLICATION

The notary requirement for the Special Bonus Game application has been eliminated. Bingo operators must still sign the application to swear or confirm that the information submitted is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge. A.R.S. § 5-406 Q. prohibits a Class A licensee from obtaining a Special Bonus Game permit.

Special Bonus games are allowed for each occasion up to five a week. The department requires that you give us the DAY and the TIME you are playing the game.

The department no longer requires operators to provide us with the amount of any consolation prize. The rule requiring this has been changed.

MULTIPLE CLASS A LICENSES

As a convenience to Class A licensees, the department has allowed several licensees that were exceeding their annual gross receipts amount of \$15,600, to apply for and

receive another Class A license. In our review of these licensees we found that there are some that are abusing the privilege and

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Multiple Class A Licenses

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there are others that probably don't need two licensees because their combined gross receipts does not exceed the \$15,600 limit. Several Class A licensees already have a Class B license; therefore, a Class A license is not necessary.

Over the next several months the department will be developing a policy covering these areas. For instance, the statutes state that if a qualified licensee exceeds their gross receipts limit, they must re-license immediately at the next higher class. (A.R.S. § 5-415) Also, the department will no longer allow an organization that meets the requirements of a qualified organization to possess two Classes A licenses. They must re-license in a higher class. For those falling into this category, an agent will be contacting you later this year.

AMENDED FINANCIAL REPORTS

We know you spend numerous hours completing your financial report just to get it in on time. Then when you think you're finished for the reporting period, you get this letter in the mail called, "Financial Discrepancy Letter" telling you that you made a mistake and have to submit an amended report. Take the time while everything is still fresh in your mind to make the necessary corrections and mail in the amended report. Our auditors will often tell you what the problem is and how to correct it. It is your responsibility to make the corrections. We have found that most mistakes are from addition errors; remember to recheck your math.

If you do not make the necessary changes or return the report incomplete, the auditors will return it to you and insist that you correct the report in your own handwriting. There is a reason for this, it is unethical and a conflict of interest for a taxing agency to change or alter the reports they receive for tax processing without you attesting to the accuracy and completeness of the data changed.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU AREN'T PLAYING WITH 75 BALLS

You've started the game then someone notices a ball on the floor. What do you do? It's too late to do it right, so you do the next best thing: Correct the problem. Treat the ball as the next ball drawn. If a valid bingo is announced, award the prize. If no bingo is announced, continue the game. Notify us of the incident as soon as possible.

There may also be a situation when several balls may get lodged in the machine and do not drop into the hopper. It's not noticed until after the game begins. Now what do you do? First, make sure all the balls have dropped back into the hopper. Then the problem can be corrected in one of two ways depending on the number of balls involved and how many numbers have already been called. If you are not too deep into the game, the manager may want to issue new paper and start the game over. Or, the manager can ask for a vote from the players on whether to start the game over or keep playing the original cards. In either case, you probably will not please everyone. Make sure you notify us as soon as possible.



BINGO SUPERVISORS

We have discussed the responsibilities of bingo supervisors in past newsletters. However, we continue to get calls complaining about the supervisor leaving in the middle of the game or a supervisor isn't even at the game. As a reminder, bingo rules and statutes **require** the supervisor to perform the following duties:

1. Verify that all bingo equipment used is in sound working condition prior to beginning the occasion. (R15-7-207 A)
2. In the presence of one or more players, verify that all bingo balls are present and that there are no numerical duplications. (R 15-7-207 B)
3. Ensure that the nightly verification report is accurate and complete. (R15-7-225)
4. Be continuously present on the premises during the entire bingo game and until all associated activities have been completed. (ARS § 5-404 F)
5. Be primarily responsible for the conduct of the bingo games played each occasion, including the supervision of all activities and the making of any report required by the department. (ARS § 5-401.29)
6. Upon request of a player, be present for a verification of the objects or balls drawn or remaining in the receptacle not yet drawn. (ARS § 5-406 U)
7. Sign each check prize if not signed by an officer of the organization. (ARS § 5-407 D)

Failure to adequately supervise a bingo occasion may be cause to suspend the licensee's bingo license.

ERRONEOUSLY CALLED NUMBERS

We have received several complaints that callers have made errors in calling a number. This has led players to mark the wrong number on their cards, sometimes even announcing a bingo. If a player announces bingo on an erroneously called number, it is not a valid bingo. No prize is awarded. Remember that an erroneously called number does not make a bingo.

SUSPENSION OF GAMES FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

This is just a reminder. If you intend to suspend your games for the summer months or anytime, you must notify the Bingo section in writing. Please give us the last date you plan to play and your projected start up date. When you actually start up again, let us know. Class B and C licensees must continue to file their financial reports even though they are not actually playing. (R15-7-307)

